

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) Out of 55 pairs of trains annoucned in Railway Budget 2006-07, 4 pairs of trains are left for introduction. Further, 45 pairs of new trains have been announced to the introduced during 2007-08.

(b) No. Sir. No such proposal has been received from Government of Rajasthan. However, some proposals have been received from people's representatives *interalia* regarding introduction of trains.

(c) and (d) New trains services are introduced subject to traffic justification, availability of resoruces, operational feasibility etc. Introduction of new trains is an ongoing exercise over Indian Railways and new train services are gradually provided irrespective of geographical boundaries every year. 5 pairs of new trains services announced in Railway Budget 2007-08 will serve Rajasthan.

Expenditure on repair and maintenance of railway

‡3320 SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a report submitted by Rakesh Mohan Committee, it has been stated that the expenditure on repair and maintenance by Indian Railways is continuously declining and track renewal work is not taking place as a result thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that trains are being badly affected due to overloading;

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking for the renewal of tracks; and

(d) the number of tracks repaired during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There were arrears of track renewals on Indian Railways. In year 2001-02, a Special Railway Safety Fund was created to wipe out areas of track renewals and other assets. In this 16538 km track renewals were also sanctioned which were due as on 01-04-01. These works are targeted to be completed by 31-3-08. Most of the works have already been completed.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Progress of Track Renewals for the last three years is as under:—

Years	Progress of Track Renewal in Km.
2004-05	5566
2005-06	4725
2006-07	4686

High speed corridors

3321. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up high speed corridors;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and division-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) It has been decided to carry out pre-feasibility studies for one high speed corridor each in the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern regions of the country. No sector has been identified for construction of high speed corridors.

Ticketless travellers

3322. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware of the ticketless travelling by police personnel in the trains;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by the Railways during last year against these travellers;

(c) whether Railways are making more stringent law to check such illegal practice; and